

An accounting is called IOI |

Do you wonder what the 445 new state employees are doing? I mean the ones who are supposed to be administering the tobacco settlement money.

Will they be able to administer this money as the people of the state vote, or will the current economic crunch put pressure on them to use that money for something else?

By the way, has that money ever come to the state? If so, how is it being distributed? I heard some of it would be used for Medicaid. Does that mean all of it could be used for Medicaid?



The real trouble with balanced budgets as the state's finances are governed is; you can't spend more than you take in. So if you have windfall money you didn't have last year, there's a great temptation to use it where you want to rather than for the purpose it was intended for.

Guess what. I read that some legislators are considering raiding the roughly \$60 million the state is to receive each year from the national legal settlement with the tobacco companies. Actually, using the amount allocated for Medicaid plus the amount for building a public health school would be a good investment at 3-1 federal matching funds.

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JIM McALLISTER
Little Rock